

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:HHJANIN

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TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209294

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MP, US

SUBJECT: EASUM/MOHAMED TALKS

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM PAID A COURTESY CALL ON
MINISTER OF HOUSING, LANDS, AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
SIR ABDUL RAZAK MOHAMED AND MAURITIUS PERM. REP. UN
AMB. RAMPHUL ON SEPT. 19 AT MAURITIUS MISSION NEW YORK.
FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT POINTS WERE COVERED:

2. DIEGO GARCIA: MOHAMED SAID MAURITIUS WANTS THE
INDIAN OCEAN TO BE AN AREA OF PEACE, NOT CONFRONTATION.
HE WILL APPEAL TO US ON DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE. HE NOTED
THAT MAURITIUS' BENEFICIAL RIGHTS IN THE CHAGOS ARCHI-
PELAGO BY IMPLICATION INCLUDE THE RIGHT TO EXPLORE FOR
AND TO EXPLOIT OIL AND MINERAL DEPOSITS. EASUM RESTATED
THE US POSITION THAT MODEST IMPROVEMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA
FOR US NAVY USE HELPS PROTECT FREE WORLD AND DOES
NOT CONTRIBUTE TO INSECURITY IN REGION. MOHAMED COMMENTED
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THAT FRANCE IS SHIFTING ITS NAVAL BASE FROM THE MALAGASY

REPUBLIC TO DJIBOUTI. HE THOUGHT IT CURIOUS THAT INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL COUNTRIES "DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT FRANCE" AS THEY DO ABOUT US.

3. SEYCHELLES AND COMOROS: MOHAMED SAID MAURITIUS WILL COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE SEYCHELLES AFTER THEY BECOME INDEPENDENT NEXT YEAR. HE EXPECTED PARTIAL INDEPENDENCE FOR THE COMOROS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

4. UNGA ISSUES: MOHAMED SAID MAURITIUS WOULD SIDE WITH US ON KOREA ISSUE BUT WAS COMMITTED TO VOTE WITH NON-ALIGNED GROUP ON CAMBODIA AND WOULD HAVE TO GO ALONG TO MAINTAIN ITS CREDIBILITY. REGARDING QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CREDENTIALS IN UNGA, RAMPHUL SAID THIS WAS PROPAGANDA EXERCISE DESIGNED TO KEEP POT BOILING. HE PREDICTED UNGA WILL BE ASKED REFER SOUTH AFRICA QUESTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT DID NOT INDICATE WHAT POSITION MAURITIUS WOULD TAKE IN THIS EVENT. INGERSOLL

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